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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" As far as my experience goes, I cannot say that the remarks could apply to all cases."

Acquisition of lands under the Madras Slum Improvement (Acquisition of Land) Act, 1954.

* 367 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of lands to be acquired and distributed in the City of Madras under the Madras Slum Improvement (Acquisition of Land) Act of 1954; and

(*b*) the extent of lands that will be acquired before the end of 1954–55 with the amount provided in the budget for the purpose?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The question of drawing up a programme of slum improvement as contemplated by the Slum Improvement (Acquisition of Land) Act is under the consideration of the Government, and so no amount has been provided in the budget for 1954–55 for the purpose."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Collector of Madras, the Chairman of the City Improvement Trust and the Director of Harijan Welfare have submitted any proposals under the Madras Slum Improvement (Acquisition of Land) Act, 1954? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Commissioner, before submitting his proposals, will consult the Collector of Madras, the Director of Harijan Welfare, the Chairman, City Improvement Trust and the Director of Town-Planning."

SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether the lands that are acquired are poramboke lands or private lands? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Private lands on which there are slums will also be acquired."

SRI S. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI :—" I know, Sir, that there are many slum-dwellers who are anxious to get their house-sites acquired under the provisions of the Slum Improvement Act and that they have also represented the matter to the Hon. Minister and other officers concerned. I want to know what action has been taken by the Government to help these slum-dwellers to become the owners of the house-sites? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" When proposals are received and the matter is finalized, the lands will be acquired."

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM :—" Sir, has any land been acquired at all under the Act and if so, from whom? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Not so far."

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Sri M. DHARMALINGAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have got any idea of extending this Act to mufassal areas for improving the slums there? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already answered day before yesterday that the working of the Act in the City will be watched before it is extended to the mufassal municipalities."

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that slums in the City of Madras grow like mushrooms on private lands and godowns and also on Government lands like pavements and if so, what the Government propose to do to clear the slums? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Member seems to be repeating the whole question once again. I have answered over and over again about what is being done." (Laughter.)

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, whereas this Act for the improvement of the slums in the City of Madras was passed some six months back, and whereas no action has been taken either by the Government or the Corporation or by any other authority in the City, is it the intention of the Government to pass a law and put it in cold storage in the pigeon-hole somewhere in the Secretariat or are they serious about implementing the recommendations contained in the Act? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, almost all slums on Corporation lands and about ten slums on Government lands have been improved. A comprehensive scheme has now been forwarded to the Government of India for getting subsidy loans."

Sri S. RAMALINGAM :—" Sir, before going through the scheme, have the Government set up any machinery to collect statistics and gather details as to what is the rent collected by the slum-holders, how it is paid and what is the compensation to be paid to the slum-holders? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" All these things will be considered."

Construction of quarters for Non-Gazetted Officers.

* 368 *Q.*—Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether a housing scheme to house Non-Gazetted Officers near their offices of work is under contemplation by the Government as an item of Government's scheme to better the working conditions of Non-Gazetted Officers?

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The answer is in the negative. The requests for the construction of quarters for the Non-Gazetted officers and the Last grade Government servants were examined by the Government recently and consideration was deferred to better times—for at least two years."